

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8445

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, FR

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS RETURNS "TRIUMPHANT"
FROM PARIS

REF: ATHENS 3003

1. SUMMARY. ALL GREEK MEDIA GAVE DETAILED, ENTHUSIASTIC AND EUPHORIC COVERAGE TO PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO PARIS APRIL 16-20. THE VISIT WAS CHARACTERIZED AS A GREAT SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL RANKING MEMBERS OF THE GOG--CABINET, JUDICIARY, PARLIAMENT, MILITARY COMMANDERS, AND CHURCH--PLUS SEVERAL THOUSAND, SWARMING ENTHUSIASTIC ATHENIANS, WELCOMED PM CARAMANLIS AT ATHENS AIRPORT APRIL 20 UPON HIS RETURN FROM A FIVE-DAY VISIT TO PARIS. PM'S UNOFFICIAL WEEKEND STAY IN PARIS AND RETURN CEREMONIES WERE GIVEN MAXIMUM TV COVERAGE AS HAD THE THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT. IN FACT, GREEK TELEVISION FOR SEVERAL DAYS HAS BEEN INUNDATED WITH CLIPS OF CARAMANLIS' MOVEMENTS IN FRENCH CAPITAL. BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRESS IN GREECE HAVE GIVEN THE FRENCH TRIP
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MAXIMUM EXPOSURE. WELCOME HOME HEADLINES OF APRIL 21

INCLUDED: "CONFIDENCE IN CARAMANLIS" (VRADYNI); "WE HAVE SUCCEEDED MORE THAN WHAT IS WRITTEN," (APOYEMATINI); "DELIVERY OF TANKS AND PLANES STARTS IMMEDIATELY" (TA NEA). THE LEFT PRESS ALSO GAVE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE VISIT BUT WITH LESS ADULATION.

3. MAIN SUBSTANCE OF ATHENS PRESS STORIES WAS STATEMENT MADE TO JOURNALISTS BY CARAMANLIS AT THE END OF HIS OFFICIAL VISIT LAST FRIDAY. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS PREMIER CHIRAC MADE THE IDENTICAL STATEMENT WITH A DIFFERENT INTRODUCTION. (THE TWO STATEMENTS WERE APPARENTLY MADE IN LIEU OF ISSUING A JOINT COMMUNIQUE.) IN THIS STATEMENT CARAMANLIS (AND CHIRAC) EMPHASIZED THAT FRANCE INTENDS TO CONTRIBUTE POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY TO RESTORING DEMOCRATIC GREECE. THE STATEMENT ALSO TOUCHED ON THE MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, GREECE'S INTEREST IN THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIAL AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH LOANS TO GREECE, WITHOUT GOING INTO GREAT DETAIL OR SPECIFICS. TWO POINTS WHICH WERE SPECIFIC RELATED TO FRENCH SUPPORT FOR GREECE'S ADMISSION AS A FULL MEMBER IN THE EC AND GREEK PREFERENCE "IN PRINCIPLE" FOR THE FRENCH SECAM COLOR TV SYSTEM WHENEVER GREECE DECIDES TO INTRODUCE COLOR TV.

4. IN HIS FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE DEPARTING PARIS CARAMANLIS WAS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL POINTS. HE SAID THAT FRANCE WILL SUPPORT THE GREEK REQUEST FOR A \$480 MILLION LOAN FROM THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON THE SUPPLY OF ARMS BY FRANCE, HE REPLIES WITH DELPHIC INDIRECTION: "IN POLITICS THERE ARE THINGS THAT ARE TALKED ABOUT WITHOUT BEING DONE AND THINGS THAT ARE DONE WITHOUT BEING TALKED ABOUT." CARAMANLIS ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING WILL VISIT GREECE IN SEPTEMBER. ON GREEK ENTRY INTO THE EC HE TOLD CORRESPONDENTS TO FIND THE ANSWER IN THE TEXT OF HIS FAREWELL STATEMENT BUT ADDED HE IS CONVINCED IT WILL TAKE PLACE. ON HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE NATO SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS CARAMANLIS SAID: "I WILL REPLY WHEN I KNOW THE AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE." ON GREEK MILITARY MEASURES IN THE AEGEAN: "THESE ISLANDS HAVE NOT BEEN ARMED IN A WAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT SHOULD CAUSE TURKEY ANY ANXIETY." ON FURTHER OIL EXPLORATIONS IN NORTHERN GREECE, HE SAID FRANCE WILL CONTRIBUTE TECHNICAL AND POSSIBLY ECONOMIC HELP. ON NATO, GREECE "LIKE FRANCE" HAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE MILITARY WING, AND THE "PROCEDURE FOR WITHDRAWAL IS IN THE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT." KUBISCH

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